

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: CLC MEETING WITH AFL-CIO

1. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) PRESIDENT MORRIS, ACCOMPANIED BY CLC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HARKER, IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY AND SECRETARY-TREASURER KIRKLAND IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 5. HARKER IS OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED THAT THIS FIRST EXCHANGE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WITH AFL-CIO SINCE MORRIS TOOK OVER CLC PRESIDENCY IN 1974 IS NOW TAKING PLACE. HE TOLD LABATT THAT MORRIS HOPES TO OBTAIN AFL-CIO VIEWS ON ILO, ICFTU AND ORIT.

2. IN VIEW OF EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REP IRVING BROWN AND RECENT ARTICLES WRITTEN BY LANE KIRKLAND, CLC LEADERSHIP IS NOW GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT AFL-CIO WILL BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TO RECOMMEND RESCINDING U.S.G. LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO. LABATT CAUTIONED HARKER THAT OUR LETTER OF INTENT IS NOT SUBJECT
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TO FINAL DECISION FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND WE WILL

WATCH PROGRESS WITHIN ILO CLOSELY.

3. MORRIS INTENDS TO TAKE SOUNDING ON AFL-CIO CURRENT VIEWS OF ICFTU AND HOPES THAT CLOSER RELATIONSHIP CAN BE REESTABLISHED EVEN IF IT FALLS SHORT OF AFL-CIO'S REAFFILIATION. CLC IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY AFL-CIO'S REACTIVATION OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN OECD'S TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CONCLUDES FROM THAT--RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY--THAT THIS WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON AFL-CIO'S FUTURE RELATIONSHIP TO ICFTU.

4. CONCERNING ICFTU LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, ORIT, CLC ADMITS TO BEING BAFFLED BY POSTPONMENT OF ACTION LEADING TO A REVITALIZED AND RESTRUCTURED ORGANIZATION. HARKER IN PARTICULAR HOPES THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN CLC AND AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) RELATIONS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE RESULTS OF NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF PRESIDENT MEANY AND PRESIDENT MORRIS.

5. LABATT CAUTIONED HARKER THAN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY CLC AND AUCCTU AT END OF SOVIET TEAM'S VISIT TO CANADA MIGHT CAUSE RAISED EYEBROWS AMONG OTHER FREE WORLD LABOR MOVEMENTS (SEE OTTAWA A-561 BEING POUCHED TODAY). IN RESPONSE, HARKER MAINTAINED THAT AUCCTU TEAM ARRIVED WITH FAR MORE CONTROVERSIAL TEXT, INCLUDING ATTACKS ON U.S. POLICY RE ANGOLA AND CHILE, WHICH CLC INSISTED ON HAVING STRIKEN BEFORE COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED. NEVERTHELESS, HARKER WAS OVERRULED WHEN HE OPPOSED ISSUANCE OF ANY COMMUNIQUE ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING SINCE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AFTER 1975 VISIT OF CLC DELEGATION TO SOVIET UNION.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING RESULTS OF CLC-AFL/CIO MEETING THAT MAY COME TO ATTENTION OF DEPT. DUEMLING

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